



News Release

2014 Michigan Cherry Production Forecast

The Michigan tart cherry production forecast is 181.5 million pounds, nearly 17 percent less than the 2013 crop, according to Jay Johnson, Director, USDA, NASS, Great Lakes Regional Office. The tart cherry crop development is behind schedule due to cold temperatures late into spring. While yield potential looks good, it will be hampered by some freeze damage to trees. Additionally, the yields will likely be highly variable between orchards.

The Michigan sweet cherry production forecast is 25,800 tons. Sweet cherries are also behind schedule, but in contrast to tart cherries, sweet cherry production is forecast to increase by 13 percent over the 2013 crop. Similar to tart cherries, yields will vary widely for growers between orchards.

United States tart cherry production is forecast at 264.4 million pounds, down 10 percent from the 2013 production. Utah growers are expecting high yields this year. In Washington, growers reported very good weather and are expecting a significant increase in production from last year.

United States sweet cherry production is forecast at 326,240 tons, down 2 percent from 2013. Growers in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington reported excellent weather this year. Winter conditions were moderate and warm spring conditions resulted in an excellent bloom and good pollination levels. In California, warm and dry winter weather reduced chilling hours. Poor pollination resulted in minimal set and record-low yields.